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following letter was, therefore, addressed by the Secretary of the Treasury to the Secretary of State :

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington, D. C., May 16, 1899.*

SIR : I am informed by the Surgeon-General of the Marine-Hospital Service that, on account of the fruit traffic to the United States from ports on the Atlantic coast of Central America, it is necessary that he should be informed as to the prevalence or nonprevalence of yellow fever in certain cities located on or near the Pacific coast of Central America, since passengers cross the Isthmus from the Pacific coast to take immediate shipment from an Atlantic port to the United States.

I have, therefore, to request that a letter be addressed to the consuls or consular agents at each of the following-named places, requesting them to forward to the Surgeon-General of the Marine-Hospital Service a statement as to the prevalence or nonprevalence of yellow fever in their respective cities or the surrounding territory, said reports to be transmitted twice each month until November 1.

The ports referred to are as follows : San Jose, Guatemala ; Leon and Managua, Nicaragua ; Alajuela, Costa Rica ; Panama, Barranquilla, and Cartagena, Colombia ; Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Respectfully, yours,  
The honorable the SECRETARY OF STATE.

L. J. GAGE, *Secretary.*

The following reply has been received from the Secretary of State :

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*Washington, D. C., May 20, 1899.*

SIR : Referring to your letter of the 16th instant asking that certain consular officers in Central and South America be instructed to report twice a month, until November 1, to the Supervising Surgeon-General, Marine-Hospital Service, in regard to the existence or nonexistence of yellow fever in their respective districts, I have the honor, by direction of the Secretary of State, to inform you that suitable instructions have been sent to our consular officers at San Jose, Guatemala ; Acajutla, San Salvador, El Triunfo, La Libertad, and La Union, Salvador ; Amapala, Honduras ; Managua, Corinto, and San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua ; Punta Arenas, Costa Rica ; Panama, Cartagena, and Barranquilla, Colombia ; and Guayaquil, Ecuador.

We have no consular representatives at Leon, Nicaragua, and Alajuela, Costa Rica.  
I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

THOS. W. CRIDLER,  
*Third Assistant Secretary.*

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

#### *Rules for the transportation of dead bodies in Minnesota.*

A letter was addressed to each State board of health on August 24, 1898, requesting a copy of the laws and regulations governing the transmission of dead bodies in that State. This letter, and the replies received, were published in PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS for September, 1898. A copy of the Minnesota rules was sent according to request by the secretary of the State board, but failed to reach this Bureau, and a duplicate copy has just been received. These rules correspond with the National rules, an abstract of which was published in PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS for September 9, 1898, page 971, under the heading of Illinois. Within the State, however, owing to its climate, it has been decided that the time that may elapse after death, before a body reaches its destination, may be forty-eight hours from April 1 to October 1, and seventy-two hours from October 1 to April 1. Permits for the shipment of all dead bodies must be obtained from the State board of health or certain designated local boards, and a record is kept of all permits granted for bodies dead of contagious or infectious diseases.